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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Express Mail No.: EL627426181US

In re Application of: BROOKNER et al.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/US98/23097

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 10/30/98

U.S. SERIAL NUMBER: 09/719,607

TITLE: TECHNIQUE FOR GENERATING INDICIA INDICATIVE OF  
PAYMENT USING A POSTAL FUND

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 770P009578-US(PCT)

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MAY 15 2001

Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified, patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the Title and before the first paragraph, please insert the following  
paragraph:

91

This application claims the benefit of the earlier filed International Application No. PCT/US98/23097, International Filing Date, 30 October 1998, which designated the United States of America, and which international application was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English as WO Publication No. WO 99/66456 on 23 December 1999.